

## COMPETITION TEAM CONTRACT 2024-2025

*Congratulations on being selected to join our competitive team for the 2024-2025 dance season! We are excited to see all our team accomplish together this season!*



### **Our Philosophy**

Dance competitions can be a wonderful experience for those who strive to do their best and grow as dancers. Dance is an art form and the evaluation of dance can be very subjective. While receiving a High Score is nice, it is not our main goal. Our primary focus is on growing as dancers, improving technique, experiencing performance evaluations from a panel of judges, learning to take criticism, and of course just enjoying the art of dance. We strive to foster a supportive community where students are not “pinned” against one-another, but rather support & celebrate one another.

We expect all members of our competitive teams, **including our dance parents**, to uphold this philosophy. It is important to us that we keep all of our members on the same page, bring our teams closer together as we strive for the same goals, and keep everyone involved accountable to ensure we all have a wonderful year.

### **Placement**

Placement on one of our competitive teams is based on the following criteria: technique, potential, commitment level, enthusiasm, attitude and behavior in class, attendance and stage presence. This decision is not made by any single instructor but is discussed and decided by our team of competitive teachers. Instructors place students together in groups that will work best together in class, rehearsals, and performances, while also considering each student's current progress. The teachers reserve the right to place students in groups on a trial basis, with final decisions being made by the end of October (before we start choreography for group routines). Instructors also have the authority to merge groups, add students to routines if they are excelling in an area, or remove them if they/their parents do not follow our philosophy/guidelines listed below.

### **Courtesy & Respect**

All team members and parents will be held to the highest standards of conduct. About anyone in or outside our studio will not be tolerated. Negative communication about anyone in or outside our studio is not tolerated. Team members and their parents are expected to show courtesy and respect to all instructors, students, and parents. Repeated negative or disrespectful behavior will result in removal from the team.

Parents, we ask that you lead by example, and teach your student(s) how to respect and support their classmates and teachers. It is extremely important that we at LDI DanceWorks remain a strong dance family where all teacher, students, and parents are excited to be part of this team. We expect all involved with LDI DanceWorks to always be respectful, supportive, encouraging and are positive in spirit, attitude and behavior both inside and outside of the studio.

## **Dress Code**

**\*PLEASE HELP REMIND YOUR DANCERS WEEKLY TO FOLLOW LDI'S DRESS CODE\***

Dancers must wear appropriate dancewear to every class. Forgetting dancewear, shoes, proper hair and/or wearing inappropriate clothing is unacceptable. ONLY tight fitting dance clothes are allowed, **except for in hip-hop classes (where baggy clothing is permitted)**. Hair must be securely pulled up for every class. **Parents, please help younger dancers be prepared especially for their first class of the day.**

## **Attendance & Time Commitment for Classes**

Dance teams are similar to sports teams in that attendance is crucial. Absences affect the individual dancer, the group, and the ability to continue/clean choreography.

All team members are required to take all weekly core classes as directed by LDI DanceWorks. Consistent training is essential, and dancers who excessively miss classes will not perform at the same level as those who attend regularly.

- **Dancers are always expected to watch class/rehearsal in the case of injury or mild illness (e.g., headaches, cramps).**

Punctuality is as important as attendance. ***Two (2) occurrences of unexcused tardiness will count as an unexcused absence.***

**Students should not miss more than 5 of any one class per dance season;** after which, the dancer may be asked to step into our recreation program due to lack of commitment. **Dancers are expected to make up any missed classes to keep up with stamina, technique, and their teammates.**

Being a member of a dance team is a privilege and comes with responsibility. Personal accountability is essential for a successful season, and commitment to your other team members is a vital component of this success. When a member of the team is not present, it negatively impacts the entire group.

***Unexcused absences during the 2 weeks prior to any competition will result in removal from routines of the missed classes for that specific competition unless we have a confirmed plan ahead of time due to a unchangeable circumstance. This includes all core classes/Ballet/Mandatory Tech classes. \*\*\*DANCERS MUST WEAR ALL BLACK, FORM-FITTED ATTIRE WITH HAIR CLEANLY PULLED BACK DURING EACH 2 WEEKS BEFORE COMPETITION.***

**Competition Team Members are also required to attend class THE WEEK FOLLOWING A COMPETITION.** One of the biggest reasons we have a competitive team is for the dancers to grow and learn from other professionals. We are very grateful that competitions give video feedback where dancers can learn from their mistakes and also see where they have succeeded and where their hard work has paid off. **Teachers will review judges comments the week following a competition weekend and all students are expected to be in attendance in order to receive valuable feedback to aid their growth as a dancer. If a dancer absolutely must miss a review week at the studio, they can either join us on zoom to review feedback during class or are responsible for setting up a private lesson to go over judges feedback for all competitive routines.**

## Dancer's Health

Parents/guardians should ensure that dancers are prepared to perform at their best during classes, rehearsals, conventions and competitions. **Please be sure that your dancer has appropriate snacks, food, and beverages to properly fuel them and help them achieve their goals.**

## Dance Competitions/Preparedness for Performances

LDI DanceWorks will have 3 mandatory weekend rehearsals (2 at the studio and 1 dress rehearsal usually off-site), prior to our first competition. Extra rehearsals will be held on Saturdays and/or Sundays. Rehearsal dates will be announced by the end of September, however extra rehearsals may be added in the Spring if needed. **\*\*\*DANCERS MUST WEAR ALL BLACK, FORM-FITTED ATTIRE WITH HAIR CLEANLY PULLED BACK TO ALL WEEKEND REHEARSALS.**

Dancers are required to arrive **at least 2 hours before the start of their first scheduled competition routine with hair and make-up complete.** This is very important as the competition may run ahead of schedule and we still need enough time for the dancers to properly warm-up and run through their dances so they are ready to perform. The teachers will try their best to spend time with each group, but at times they may need to be with other dancers. **The dancers, especially our older groups, are expected to be able to warm-up/run dances on their own whether or not a teacher is present.**

**Again, we ask every single one of our team members, including our parents, to support each other in any way possible, which includes coming early/staying late to watch your fellow teammates. We ask this as we only do 3 competitions per year want all of our groups to feel supported.**

## Conventions/Etiquette

Competitive dancers are required to attend **at least 1 convention** throughout the dance season to enhance their training. Conventions are extremely valuable experiences for competitive dancers as they help them get inspired in new ways and excited for the competitive season! It helps them grow and push themselves dancing alongside others from different studios.

*Please refer to your competitive welcome newsletter for this season's convention options.*

**\*REMINDER:** Dance etiquette and punctuality are crucial when attending conventions or events outside our studio. Dancers are expected to arrive EARLY, prepared with proper dance attire and hair secured, and ready to learn, showing RESPECT TO THE TEACHERS GIVING THEIR TIME AND PASSION. Attending an event is a representation of not only our the individual dancer but also LDI DanceWorks as a whole.

## **Financial Commitments**

- Tuition for team members varies depending on the number of classes assigned. All classes and family tuition rates will be calculated at the front desk once registration is complete.
- LDI DanceWorks will attend (3) competitions and (1) convention this year. (This may be 4 separate events, or we may choose to attend a competition which holds a convention the same weekend). All team members that accept to be part of the LDI competition team are required to join our booster program which gives our families the opportunity to fundraise for their student's competition fees. Boosters does NOT cover teacher fees to attend competitions, conventions, specialty numbers, or extra LDI rehearsal costs. In order to cover our teacher fees, there is a one time yearly fee due upon acceptance to the competitive team.

### **2024-2025 Yearly Competition Fee: \$80 per Student - Due by October 12th**

- A \$250 DROP OUT FEE will apply to any student who drops out of the competition team once teachers have started routines. This fee will be used to pay instructors to re-choreograph and rearrange the competition routines.
- Families interested in attending additional competitions or nationals may need to pay a small studio fee in order to cover LDI DanceWorks administrative and teacher(s) expense(s) if applicable as this is not calculated as part of our annual fee.
- Team dancers may also have the opportunity to travel to locations overnight or even over a weekend. Please be aware of any extra expenses that may occur, and typically we attend one event out of town. Boosters/LDI DanceWorks are not responsible for these costs.
- Competition Teachers/Choreographers will select costumes that best fits the style of their routine/vision. It may be purchased from a costume company or custom made. Our teachers work long and very hard to find not only age appropriate costuming, but also work together looking at the overall cost for our families. We do not believe in charging a flat rate for costumes like many of our neighboring studios as we feel it is not fair to our families and you will most likely end up paying much more.
  - Costumes may range from \$60-\$110+, however, as stated, LDI works hard to find a balance so the average costume comes out to around \$65-\$90 depending on the age of the dancer (costumes are more expensive for adult sizes) or if a dancer requires different costuming upon receiving a special parts within a routine.
- Weekend rehearsal fees will be determined for each team member as it is dependent on the length of each rehearsal/number of routines.
- LDI will provide local Pittsburgh performance opportunities when we can. These are fun, educational, optional, and great team building experiences. There will be a small rehearsal fee for these events so we can cover the cost of the time our teachers are putting in to get the students ready to perform, even if it not the original choreographer.

## Specialty Routines

- Specialty routines, including solos, duets, and trios will be an extra optional expense and determined by each competition. LDI DanceWorks adds a \$5 fee to each routines, per dancer, per competition to cover administrative costs. Rehearsal times for these routines will be scheduled with the individual choreographer.
- For more information and pricing please go to the following site: [ldidanceworks.com/specialty](http://ldidanceworks.com/specialty)
- Approved specialty **recital** routines must be set by **March 1st.**
- There will be a **late fee of \$100 per dancer** for any routines scheduled after the deadlines.
- We allow payment plans, but again, all specialty routines and any extra competition/convention fees owed to LDI DanceWorks are due to the studio by cash/check before each event.

## Our Main Goal

*LDI DanceWorks strives to provide the most positive and rewarding experience for our dancers, but we need your support to be successful. Please, don't forget to have fun! You and your dancer will gain lifelong memories and friendships during this time together so enjoy every moment! It will be stressful at times, but remember, we are all in this together, and the hard work will and long rehearsals will pay off! We look forward to an incredible and exciting dance season with you. Thank you for choosing LDI DanceWorks!*



By signing below, I acknowledge that both I and my dancer have read and understood all expectations as members of the competitive team at LDI DanceWorks for the 2024-2025 dance season. We understand that these policies are designed to ensure a well-rounded program and a positive and rewarding experience for everyone. We agree to adhere to all standards of conduct, and financial and attendance/time commitments. We understand that failure to meet the conditions set forth in this contract by the parent/guardian or student could result in the dancer's dismissal from the LDI DanceWorks competition team.

Parent's Printed Name:

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Parent's Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dancer's Printed Name:

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Dancer's Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_